



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4

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*Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: February 1, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

RE: Sacramento and Washington Legislative Visits

Planning is underway for MTC's annual legislative advocacy meetings in Sacramento and Washington. Meetings in both capitals are an opportunity to present the delegation with a Bay Area perspective, and to hear from members about important issues in the upcoming legislative session.

**Sacramento Advocacy Visits**

Our strategy will be to replicate last year's successful meeting with the Assembly's Bay Area Caucus. On that same day we would also seek meetings with Senators and Transportation Committee Chairs.

We are seeking to coordinate our visit with Caltrans Director Will Kempton and CTC Executive Director John Barna to update legislators on the progress of the Bay Area's toll bridge construction program. The logistics of such a visit have proven to be formidable, and we may propose a less ambitious visit if before too long we cannot make the calendars work.

**Washington, D.C. Advocacy — March 10-12**

The March trip offers Commissioners an opportunity to hear first hand what we can expect from Congress in this election year. With last month's release of the Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission's report, there may be a number of issues in play as Congress looks toward the next surface transportation reauthorization.

As in past years, the trip will coincide with the American Public Transportation Association's annual legislative conference and feature the popular California transportation reception on Capitol Hill. Here are some key dates:

- Monday, March 10: 9 a.m. briefing session for MTC Commissioners, followed by an optional smart growth tour, a lunch-time Capitol Hill policy briefing (also optional), and afternoon meetings on the Hill with key Congressional staff.
- Tuesday March 11: Meetings throughout the day with members of the Bay Area Congressional Delegation and key staff, followed by the annual California transportation community's reception at the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Room (2165 Rayburn House Office Building, 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.).
- Wednesday, March 12: Return to Bay Area.

Unlike in previous years, there will be no pre-departure briefing, since the Legislation Committee will meet after the trip, on Friday, March 14. We will provide you with more details and other information in the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact Randy Rentschler (510.817.5780) or Ellen Griffin (510.817.5854) if you have questions.

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Therese W. McMillan